[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

Change of Policy of the Police towards the Satyagrahis at Vaikam.

62. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that some Policemen have been taking by force the *charkas* used by the *Satyagrahis* and destroying them?

(*b*) Is it true that, since Mr. Pitt, the Police Commissioner, went on leave, the attitude of the Police towards the *Satyagrahis* has visibly changed?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 56. Government have no information that any *charkas* have been destroyed.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Reasons for preventing non-caste Hindus from using Roads round Vaikam Temple.

63. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which induced them to take steps to prevent non-caste Hindus from using the roads round the Vaikam temple?

(*b*) Is it because the Government recognise untouchability and unapproachability that they have taken this action?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) and (*b*) The existence of a long-standing custom which prevents the non-caste Hindus from using the roads in question and the duty of the Government to maintain the *status quo*, especially when the proposal to depart from the long-standing custom is opposed to the religious feelings and usages of a section of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects and is likely to irritate it.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed with the discussion of demands for grants.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV—Forest.

Motion 101.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I rise to move the following:—

101. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,21,000 for removal of royal trees from forests by Government agency by Rs. 21,000.

The sum, for the reduction of which I make the motion, represents the difference between the budget estimate of 1099 and that of 1100,

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The revised estimate of 1099 is Rs. 20,000 less than the budget estimate. I find, in the budget of 1100, that about Rs. 40,000 more is provided for the removal of royal trees this year. It is not clear why additional expenditure is necessary at this juncture. The Conservator of Forests in his Administration Report says "It will be seen from the statement that the quantity of timber removed by the several agencies during 1098 was far less than in 1097." This was due to the fact that there was a balance of timber remaining unsold and undelivered in the several sale and forest depôts amounting to as much as 5,26,181 cubic feet in the case of royal trees and 4,57,196 cubic feet in the case of junglewood. Reference to this large balance was also made in the Legislative Council at the time of the budget discussion in 1098. The Conservator of Forests then made a promise that, if the market for timber continued to be dull during the year, the output of timber into the depôts would be restricted. Unfortunately, the market did not show any sign of improvement and the demand for timber continued to be as poor as before during the year. It was therefore thought inadvisable to work down larger quantities of timber to the depôts. The felling of royal trees was further restricted and no contracts for the extraction of junglewood on a large scale were given. In the Memorandum explaining the details of the budget under discussion, the Financial Secretary has explained that the difference between the budget and the revised estimates of revenue in 1099 was brought about by the limitation of sales owing to the poor demand for timber. Though he at first expected better receipts from forests this year, he had to change his opinion as a result of the floods. In his speech introducing the budget, the Financial Secretary stated that the disturbance to trade and production would also affect our receipts under all the other main heads of revenue, particularly Excise, Customs and Forest. I think we can safely rely on the forecast of the Financial Secretary with regard to this matter. This year the market will be duller than in 1098 and 1097. At the end of 1097, there was a balance of 9,84,014 cubic feet of timber lying unsold. At the end of 1098, the balance lying unsold was 8,59, 420 cubic feet. Timber to the value of Rs. 8,17,592 was lying idle at the end of 1098. In addition to that, fresh timber was extracted in 1099. We do not know the exact quantity of timber sold in 1099. But we know for certain that, owing to the floods, the sale of timber must have been considerably handicapped. Usually timber is sold at the end of the year. This year it was not possible to have a roaring sale. So there is reason to believe that the balance lying idle will be much more than that of 1098. Considering the dulness of the market, I ask the House whether it is absolutely necessary to spend any more money than what was allotted in the budget of 1099 for the removal of royal trees. The Conservator of Forests has been assuring us that no more fresh timber would be extracted so long as we had a surplus stock. He was hoping in 1098 that, if Messrs. Sâbnis and Co. would fulfil their contract, he would be in a position to commence further extraction. The Administration Report evidences the fact that his hope was frustrated. We had timber

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

to the value of Rs. 8 lakhs and odd lying idle at the end of 1098. We are told that in 1099 the market was dull. We expect that this year the market will be duller. Under these circumstances, I request the Conservator of Forests to reduce at least Rs. 21,000 out of the budgeted expenditure for the removal of royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, it is true that I had made a promise that during 1099 no extraction of royal trees on a large scale would be undertaken. As a result of it, what little we had in stock has already been sold and there is no large stock of timber in the depôts. Unless the amount, *viz.*, Rs. 1,21,000, provided in the budget is sanctioned—I had provided Rs. 1,30,000 in my budget, but the Government reduced it to Rs. 1,21,000—and if any further reduction is made, it may not be possible for the department to meet the indents of the P. W. D., the Panivakai or other departments. Mr Madhava Variar has been saying that there is a balance of eight lakhs and odd of cubic feet of timber in our depôts. He is evidently making a mistake by confusing jungle timber with royalties. The stock of royalties is so small that, unless we go in for a fresh felling on a slightly bigger scale, it may not be possible for us to meet the requirements of the various departments.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the extent of timber, I mean royal trees, lying unsold?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Except at Alleppey and Vettikkad, there is no large stock of timber.

PRESIDENT: What about the old stock?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The old stock has been nearly disposed of. The balance available on a rough calculation would come to about 50,000 cubic feet only.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not quite understand what he meant when he said that the old stocks have been sold out.

PRESIDENT: He says he has got only 50,000 cubic feet of old stock which could not be sold on account of its condition. What about its condition?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Its condition has already been stated. It is of very poor quality. We are arranging for the sale of this stock at concession rates to the flood-affected people. There is a small balance also at Viyapuram; but considering the quantity of logs available at the beginning of 1099 the balance available now is not much. So, unless we go in for extraction of fresh logs, it may not be possible to fully meet all the demands.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the balance left by Messrs. Sabnis & Co.?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say that very accurately. Roughly, it will be about 40,000 cubic feet.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not quite understand what he said in regard to the promise made for not cutting down further timber.

PRESIDENT: He has been saying that the old stock has been mostly sold, and that, unless new timber is extracted, it will not be possible to meet the demand of the P. W. D. and the Panivakai Departments and also other public demands. Royal trees mean teak practically.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The promise was with reference to the year 1099 and that was kept up to a very large extent. Now we are dealing with the year 1100.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What will be the probable demand of the P. W. D. and Panivakai Departments for 1100?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That cannot be known previously. All the same I have got a rough idea as to the demands from these two departments. The Panivakai Department may require some 50,000 cubic feet and the P. W. D. 40,000 or 50,000 cubic feet. Besides this, the demands of other departments will have also to be met. What I have said is only based on a rough calculation.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the market for timber was dull in respect of royal trees last year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes; in the beginning of the year it was dull but it improved later.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was it not better than what it used to be in the previous year? And does he expect the market would be better this year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): From the results of the sales during the last two or three months, I can almost assure the House that, if it continues like this, we can realise better value.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the rule usually followed in the felling of royal trees? Are the trees felled for the purpose of the market or for proper sylviculture and for proper preservation of forests.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have already stated, in connection with some resolution, that our extraction of royalties is mainly from private lands but, whenever we want timber of fresh quality, we go inside the reserves and have it extracted. We are not guided much by sylvicultural principles so far as private lands are concerned.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking a question with regard to the felling of trees from the

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

forests. Does the Department arrange for the cutting of trees for sylviculture?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The allotment in the budget is for the removal of royal trees from forests by Government agency and the motion before the House is to reduce that allotment. The word 'forests' occurring therein does not mean private forests. So I put the question. Of course, I am prepared to abide by the decision of the Chair.

PRESIDENT: The wording is no doubt that; but Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has stated that the extraction of royal trees is not made from Government forests.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): So far as Government forests are concerned, are there not royal trees in them now ripe for felling? That is what I am asking.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There may be trees, but at present we are not felling them.

PRESIDENT: Why do you not answer the question whether there are trees which are ripe for being cut?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There are.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will not those trees which are ripe for cutting deteriorate in case they are allowed to remain for a long time?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Not in the least. They can afford to stand for another fifty years. There may not be growth taking place, but all the same they can remain in good condition.

For these reasons, I think that a reduction under this head will materially affect the realisation of forest revenue for this year and I hope my friend Mr. Madhava Variar will not press his motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not press the motion.

PRESIDENT: Does the House permit Mr. Madhava Variar to withdraw his motion?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 102.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

102. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,43,600 for Conservancy and Works by Rs. 100.

Important questions arise for discussion under the head of "Conservancy and Works." I do not, however, propose to discuss all those

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questions, but shall be content with drawing attention to one or two points which appear to me to be deserving of particular notice. The important work of communications has not been attended to by the Department in spite of the fact that on the importance of communications depends reduction in the cost of extraction of forest produce. What is done for the improvement of communications is done in a haphazard manner, and neither systematically nor under any definite scheme. Unless communications are improved systematically, the cost of extraction is bound to go up. There is no standard of cost for extraction and the cost has been systematically going up, while the market for the produce has been going down. Demarcations and survey works will never come to an end. The demarcation of the Puliyara reserve has been going on, for instance, for the last 21 years! Forest survey must be co-ordinated with revenue survey. Unless this is done, the location of the forest areas will be difficult. It is doubtful whether the total area of forests really comprises the area marked out as forest.

With regard to minor forest produce, we find there has not been any increase in the receipts during the last so many years. No attempt has been made to increase the revenue from minor forest produce nor has any experiment been made to improve the revenue under this head. These are some of the questions that I propose to discuss in connection with this subject.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): My friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has been going over some of the points which have already been discussed in this House during the last budget session.

PRESIDENT: He has prominently mentioned two matters, *i. e.*, communications and minor forest produce.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In regard to communications, I told the House last time that I was not a believer in going in for extensive communications where immediate result is not to be realised. We have been doing some work however in this direction. We have spent money for blasting rocks in our principal rivers to afford greater facilities for the transport of timber and also to open up the less accessible places in the forests. A sum of Rs. 3,000 was spent last year on account of two roads and it is under contemplation to extend a third road, and to investigate the opening of another road for tapping the Shendurni forest this year.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Is there any definite scheme for improving communications in the forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. We want money only for the schemes which we are going to take up where the result is immediate and do not want to spend with the idea of getting the result at a later date. The cost of extraction will by and by decrease as we open these roads.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai points out that the Puliyara demarcation has been pending for the last so many years and that no decision has been arrived at. It was to finish such works that I moved the Government to appoint a special officer and Government have now provided for a separate Forest Settlement Officer for four months.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how much money has been spent during the last five years in opening out forests, *i. e.*, on communications?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say off-hand. I will have to collect the information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are we to understand that no money is spent on communications?

PRESIDENT: That was not what he said. He was saying that the policy was to spend on communications for the purpose of extraction.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Not for the immediate result?

PRESIDENT: That is the immediate result sought.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it that the communications are merely for the transport of timber?

PRESIDENT: That is all that he is primarily interested in.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I take it that he is interested only in the immediate result which according to him would be the forest revenue?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That does not arise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That is for the President to rule and not for the member.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No; we are interested in getting a sustained revenue from the forest and for that we are not justified in opening roads which will consume a lot of money, and at the same time will not bring in any revenue.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether roads are not necessary in the interior forests to enable high officers of the Department, like the Conservator of Forests, to move about more frequently in those areas?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not possible, unless we spend a lot of money, to take cars inside the forests. Ordinarily all the forest officers can do inspection work walking and for their convenience it is not necessary that money should be spent on costly roads.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For how many days in 1099 did the Conservator of Forests remain about twenty miles away from any existing road?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say off-hand.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Some working idea will do.

PRESIDENT: How many forests are there which are twenty miles away from places where there are roads?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): My idea is not to open roads in far off places at enormous cost merely for inspection purposes.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question. His question is whether roads are not required for such areas for the purpose of facilitating inspection work.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): At present we have got all the necessary roads.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): The information that I want is not forthcoming.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It may be thirty days.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know whether the Department is maintaining all the roads opened by the coupe contractors?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In some places there may not be any necessity to maintain such roads, because there may be no work going on.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Are there not such roads maintained by the Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If it is considered useful, the road is maintained, but not otherwise.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know whether it is not possible to maintain all of them?

PRESIDENT: He has given the answer that it is not necessary to maintain all of them.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to minor forest produce, about the development of which there cannot be any difference of opinion, we are doing whatever is possible. Recently, however, Government had to correct the contract with Messrs. the Hind Candle Works.

PRESIDENT: You are dealing with the term in its restricted meaning. It includes all forest produce except timber.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I was referring only to gall-nuts and such other things.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chergannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know why the contractors abandoned the contract?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Because it did not pay. They entered into a contract for twenty years and they

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

were paying Rs. 5,000 every year, but they could not collect produce for Rs. 50 from the forest. The contractors were in Bombay and their solicitors were paying the amount for the last nine years or so. Now I understand the senior partner of the firm died and the junior partners are quarrelling, with the result that, though notices were sent to the company, no reply has been received. That is why the contract was cancelled.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What is the percentage of cost for the extraction of timber with reference to the total expenditure?

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Thirty-nine or forty.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What was the percentage about five years ago?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say off-hand. I may say that five years ago we had the coupe sale system.

MR N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Was the cost greater or less?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Under the coupe sale system, no expenditure would be incurred and the cost of extraction would be nothing.

PRESIDENT: What about the minor forest produce?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If by minor forest produce Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai refers to gall-nuts, etc., it is not possible to give much hope of development. With regard to bamboos, *eeta*, etc., we have already given a contract for the utilisation of *eeta* for match-making in the Northern Division. In the Shencottah Division, there is also *eeta* in extensive areas and we have investigated the possibility of utilising it for pulp and we expect some sort of result; but I cannot promise anything to the House.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether it is possible to develop the *kodappala* oil?

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is another thing about which also some erroneous impression exists. The quantity of *kodappala* oil that can be extracted is very small. The trees are available only in the Shendurni forest. It does not occur anywhere else. It is also not an oil which can be extracted always. It is a disintegration product of the tree and it is only the deteriorated trees that give the oil.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether any scientific measures have been evolved to develop this?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): When boring is made right to the heart of the tree, if there is oil in the tree, it

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oozes out and is collected. It is a crude system and the total quantity of oil collected in a year is about thirty tins. After all we cannot do much with that.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether forests other than the Shendurni forest have been exploited for this purpose?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the work of the Utilisation Officer?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He has been trying to find markets for our timber and other produce; he has investigated the possibility of a ropeway in the High Ranges as also the utilisation of reeds in Shencottah.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Has he submitted any report during his term of office?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Are copies of the report available?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If the member wants it can be made available.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has the officer turned out any profitable work?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has any requisition been made from any quarter with regard to some of our own forest products exhibited at Wembley?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was a letter received from Messrs. Howard and Bros. They wanted some blackwood of a special quality and dimension.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is the only enquiry so far?

PRESIDENT: Yes, so far.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether any experiment has been conducted in regard to any minor produce?

PRESIDENT: Yes; in regard to the possibility of using *eeta* for matches and paper pulp.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈറാ കൺട്രാക്ട് അുക്കെങ്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ? ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അു ക്കാണ്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In the Shencottah and Quilon Divisions separate contracts are given for the collection of *eeta*. In the Northern Division there is no contract given but passes are given to people to collect this material for the manufacture

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

of mats. There are areas still where ordinary people cannot collect *eeta*. Here the collection of *eeta* is leased out to the Malabar Match Manufacturing Company.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും പാസ്സ് കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനാക്കാണധികാരം?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ആരും പാസ്സുകൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അധികാരമുള്ളവർ പാസ്സുകൊടുക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ—

PRESIDENT: He says that no such authority has been given.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഏതെങ്കിലും ആളിനു പാസ്സു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, do you want any other information in respect of this subject?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 103.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

103. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,43,600 for Conservancy and Works by Rs. 100.

Motions 104 and 105.

PRESIDENT: There are two identical motions, both for the reduction of Rs. 1,500. They are Nos. 104 and 105. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai may move his motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following:—

104. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for purchase of uniform by Rs. 1,500.

I have sent up this motion with a view to ascertain whether a substantial portion of the amount could not be reduced. I find from the budget estimate for the last year that the amount provided was only Rs. 1,000. On the other hand, this year the provision is for Rs. 2,500. I also wish to know whether the purchase of the uniform is by contract or whether it is directly purchased from outside firms or from Travancore. It is for this purpose that I have sent up this motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, it is quite true that the figure for the last year was Rs. 1,000 while for this year the amount provided is Rs. 2,500. There are 291 guards and 62 foresters. According to the rules, they have to be provided with one set of uniform annually and the cost has to be defrayed by Government.

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The average cost of uniform for a guard comes to Rs. 9-as.-8 and for 291 guards Rs. 2,500 is provided. We had not been supplying our men with uniform for so many years. Occasionally, as when a Governor of Madras visits the place, we provide them with uniform just to make them look smart. For several years no attempt was made to clothe the whole staff.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Why were not these people clothed properly for the last several years?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Because nobody insisted on it and no adequate provision was made in the budget.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): That is no reason why they should not be clothed properly.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am not responsible.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am not seeking to fix the responsibility on the present Conservator. I ask why the Forest Department did not move the Government to sanction such amounts as would enable the subordinates to be clothed properly.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If it is not divulging a secret, I have been pressing the Government every year for the necessary amount for the purpose, but a small sum alone is sanctioned every year.

PRESIDENT: Perhaps the matter was not properly explained to the Government till now.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Last year the provision made was only Rs. 1,000. It was not sufficient for the purpose. We had to divert a sum of Rs. 2,000 from the amount allotted for "Conservancy and Works." With this amount we have provided one set of uniform. Recently, towards the end of last year, Government passed new rules with regard to uniform. Under these new rules, we have to supply foresters too with uniform and half the cost will have to be met by the Government. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai asked how the supply was made, whether it was through contract or by direct purchase. The local contractor's supply was bad. We gave the contract last year to the Carnatic Mills and we found that the stuff supplied was cheap and of good quality and there was a saving of three annas for a set of uniform. Every one who has seen it has appreciated it and the total saving was considerable. The amount of Rs. 2,500 is absolutely necessary to supply our men with one set of uniform this year also.

PRESIDENT: Are not the pugrees being manufactured locally?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes; the yarn for turban cloth is obtained and the turban is made here. The Textile Expert is dyeing the yarn and getting the turban woven.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether the cloth itself may not be made locally through the Industries Department?

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: He says it is *khaki*.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not possible to get the correct *khaki* colour here. Under these circumstances, I request the House will be so good as to sanction this grant.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Cannot the colour be changed into green?

PRESIDENT: The pugrees are going to be green. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, do you withdraw your motion?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 105, which stood in the name of Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai, was not moved.

Motion 106.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I rise to move the following motion:—

106. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for rewards.

This allotment was not in existence in the budgets for the last two years. I think this is a new item and the Department has borrowed this system from the Police Department where, in more places than one, they demand rewards unnecessarily. This system also I am going to oppose. Anyhow, provision is made on page 48 of the *Budget* for a sum of Rs. 200 for rewards. I do not know for what it is meant.

PRESIDENT: You mean Rs. 300?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): A provision of Rs. 200 on page 48 of the *Budget*.

PRESIDENT: Does it relate to the Forest Department?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: That is a different item. We are now dealing with 6 B—Forests—Direction.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In the Forest departmental budget provision is made for rewards in two places.

PRESIDENT: You have already got a motion tabled in regard to that.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): On page 48 of the *Budget*, there is another item of Rs. 200 for rewards. I submit that it is unnecessary. Hence I move this motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The amount of Rs. 300 provided under rewards under 'Direction' is for the payment of rewards to be sanctioned by the Conservator of Forests to mahouts who successfully capture elephants, to persons who bring information with regard to forest offences, and to subordinates who display

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special aptitude for work. Recently, some cases happened in which the Police had also helped our men in connection with the floods. Before this time we were not having a separate provision for this item. This year we are putting it as a separate item.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Under what head?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Under contingencies. Now the amount under contingencies has been correspondingly reduced. This is only a new head and the amount is being expended every year.

With regard to the amount of Rs. 200, it is for rewards to be given by Divisional Forest Officers. When the amount is distributed to all the six Divisions, it will come to Rs. 30 to each Division and that is not much.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the amount given as rewards from contingencies last year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not exactly remember that. If Mr. Hoogewerf wants the information, I shall give it later.

PRESIDENT: Roughly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Roughly about Rs. 200. I hope my friend Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai will now withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: It is only a change in nomenclature. That is what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai explains. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, do you press your motion?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 107 and 108.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

107. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 300 for rewards by Rs. 200.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

108. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,240 from Direction by Rs. 100.

Motion 109.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

109. To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,374 for temporary establishment for "Conservancy and Works."

Sir, I have tabled this motion merely for the purpose of ascertaining what the temporary establishment is for and what the kind of work is that the temporary establishment is doing. It is to get this information that I have tabled it.

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[President.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, last year I have explained that we keep a temporary establishment just to prevent the staff under pensionable appointments increasing. Under this temporary establishment, we include the surveyors and lascars, watchers in plantations and depôts, fire-watchers, the sandal plantation watchers and such like. It is hard to keep them under temporary establishment because the establishment is being continued every year. But, if the House will allow me, I shall make the establishment permanent.

PRESIDENT: You have got to move the matter separately. You have to address Government and explain the necessity for making the establishment permanent.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is practically a permanent establishment but it is kept temporary in order not to add to the pension charges.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know for how many years this establishment has been maintained?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This has been maintained for very many years.

PRESIDENT: Is it not subject to fluctuation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Except in one or two minor instances there is no change.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What was the additional establishment last year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was no addition to this establishment.

PRESIDENT: The amount spent you will find in the budget.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The budget does not show what amount was provided for last year.

PRESIDENT: What was the provision for last year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The accounts for 1099 have not yet been closed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the genesis for this temporary establishment?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): To keep them when wanted and then send them away when not required.

PRESIDENT: It is a sort of training ground. You keep them there till they are trained.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If it is absolutely necessary, why not make it permanent?

PRESIDENT: The Conservator thinks that it is necessary and he is going to move Government in this matter separately.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to say a word on this subject. I find the establishment is for conservancy and works. It is well known that a person who feels that next year he may be thrown out of work may not bestow that amount of attention which a permanent man would. The Conservator of Forests states that, from the time of the inception of the Forest Department, the temporary establishment has been in existence.

PRESIDENT: He said that it has been in existence for very many years.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Yes, he said so. At any rate, it has been in existence for very many years. I think it is necessary that the staff should be made permanent. In the first place, when a low-paid man feels that he has got a permanent lien on the Government service and can look forward to a time when he will get a pension, he will take greater interest in Government work, especially in a work like conservancy which is very important so far as the permanent interests of the State are concerned. If you have a temporary staff, the Rangers and other officers may be put to sore temptation; the departmental officers would appoint people when they want and when there is an unspent sum at the end of the year notwithstanding the vigilant examination of accounts by the accounts department. There may be difficulties which may have to be slurred over. It may be that names may even appear in the lists of such employees, but the persons may not be in existence. I feel I must tell the Council from the conversation that I have had with some of the temporary officers—I do not say the temporary Forest officers—that even the Assistant Tahsildars, those who have been figuring so prominently in this Council for the last two orthree years,—even they would have done more work if they had not felt that this year or the next their service would be dispensed with. If that is the case with a graduate who gets Rs 75—100 monthly, the condition of a man who is paid Rs. 7 or Rs. 10 for menial work inside the forest requires very little description. If the staff is necessary, that ought to be made permanent. The Conservator, in the course of the discussion, said that he would make the staff permanent if the House agrees to that. There is no direct contract between the Conservator and the non-official members of the Council. If the Conservator believes strongly on that point, he must address Government. If the Council thinks that the proposal is beneficial, it will sanction it. The argument "if the Council is prepared to sanction it" cannot be repeated.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I entirely agree with Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai in what he has said on this subject. I think that this system of having temporary hands does not make for efficiency of service. The temporary hands engaged will not feel any responsibility. In this as well as in the P. W. D. there are a number of temporary hands and the temporary man is not sure of the next day or the next hour. So he makes hay when the sun shines and the rain falls, and

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

makes the best of the opportunity for the little time he is in office. Hence it may be on the score of want of responsibility that this temporary system should be abolished except in very exceptional circumstances. If there is absolute necessity for the temporary hands, the sooner they are absorbed in the permanent establishment the better.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai has brought forward a proposition to the House—

PRESIDENT: It is only a remark.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*):—which should not be passed over. There are certain aspects of the question which have to be borne in mind before the House can form an opinion regarding the suggestion put forward by Mr. Velu Pillai. There are in every department what are known as contingent establishments, like sweepers, watchers, etc., and the temporary work establishment in the Forest Department is more or less of the same kind as the contingent establishments I referred to. The object of keeping a work establishment in the Forest Department, as in the P. W. D., is to enable Government to expand and contract according to necessity.

PRESIDENT: The temporary establishment in the Forest Department is indispensable.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It has always been non-pensionable. If we were to make all these appointments pensionable, that would mean heavy increase in pension and leave charges.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Have you got any men permanent? I think the Forest Department must have needed for a long time a certain number of surveyors for working in emergencies. Why should not the permanent requirements be recruited permanently and the additional requirements only temporarily?

PRESIDENT: I do not think the Forest Department requires surveyors permanently. It can borrow whenever it wants from the Revenue Department.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I understand that it is a case of continuing the men for a long time as temporary in order to deprive them of their pension.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That does not seem to be correct. These appointments do not probably deserve pension. The surveyors' case may be specially considered and the matter set right. If we make the temporary establishment of the Forest Department pensionable, then in the P. W. D. also such establishment will have to be made permanent. But the finances of the State will not allow the same being done.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is the word 'temporary' synonymous with the word 'non-pensionable'?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Temporary means not substantive. A person is entitled to pension if his appointment is substantive and permanent.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the swelling of the pension amount is the sole reason that would deter him very strongly from adopting the proposition.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That will be one imperative aspect which I will specially consider.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. George the comparative responsibility of the personal peons in the Account Office and the watchers in the Forest Department to prevent fires?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The peon has considerable responsiblity and the watcher has not much.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has not the watcher in charge of fire protection work sufficient responsibility?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 110.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I rise to move the following motion:—

110. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,800 for travelling allowance to executive and protective staff by Rs. 3,800.

Sir, the actual amount expended under this head during 1096 was Rs. 13,970. For 1097 also it was Rs. 13,000 and odd and during the year 1098 it was only Rs. 11,756. So I think the expenditure under this head is less than what it was in the previous years. This year it appears that it has been budgeted for Rs. 15,800. I do not know why there should be Rs. 4,000 more than the actual expenditure of 1098. In the previous year, what was budgeted was not spent. So I put it at Rs. 12,000 and I would request Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai to accept the cut proposed.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, this is also a case of misunderstanding. We have 27 Rangers, 23 Deputy Rangers and 63 Foresters. They have to be paid permanent travelling allowance, the Rangers at Rs. 25 each, the Deputy Rangers at Rs. 10 and the Foresters at Rs. 6, Rs. 7 and Rs. 8 each. The permanent travelling allowance of these people alone would amount to Rs. 16,384.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Is it fixed travelling allowance?

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[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. They are expected to travel for a certain number of days in a month.

PRESIDENT: How do you account for the short expenditure?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the short expenditure, I may point out that the amount provided in the budget was found inadequate and we were diverting funds from other heads.

PRESIDENT: That does not explain the thing. Why should you incur short expenditure and then divert?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We find that the allotments were not enough and we had to exceed that allotment and so we were obliged to meet the expenditure from other sources.

MR. C.P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I call his attention to the fact that it is not so? I understand Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai to say that a small amount was budgeted and a larger amount was spent. In 1096 alone that was the case. But in 1097 only Rs. 13,400 was spent. In 1098, it was only Rs. 11,756. That is what I see from the figures in the budget.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some of the Foresters and some of the Deputy Rangers were put in charge of the depôts, when they are not given permanent travelling allowance.

PRESIDENT: What he says is that you are not incurring extra expenditure, but you are effecting a saving.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot explain it now. I do not know where my friend got the figures from.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): From the budget.

PRESIDENT: There is only one way in which the expenditure can be less than the budgeted allotment, although the travelling allowances are fixed. The actual travelling allowance payable may be much less than the estimate. Or there may be leave vacancies to which substitutes may not be appointed. I think the figures are all right. The statement you made that you are exceeding your allotment is correct.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, but we are trying to adjust it otherwise.

MR. C.P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): The budgeted amount was Rs. 15,000 for 1097 and the revised estimate for the same year was only Rs. 13,500. Similarly for 1098, the budgeted amount was Rs. 14,000 and the revised estimate was the same. For 1098, the revised estimate was Rs. 14,000 but the actual amount spent was only Rs. 11,756.

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PRESIDENT : Probably due to leave vacancies not being filled.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : If we want to meet the actual amount payable for fixed T. A., we want Rs. 17,000; but we manage to put some people in charge of the depôts and effect a saving thereby.

PRESIDENT : But that does not clash with what Mr. Kochukunju Pillai says. His strong point is that, during the past three years, you were not able to spend the whole budget allotment. Then, why cannot you make the allotment less?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I will look into the budget figures. I think there is something wrong in the amount. I require the whole allotment provided.

PRESIDENT : I think you can accept a small cut, say, Rs. 1,800.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No, Sir, I cannot.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : Is it due to shorter expenditure under travelling allowance that this saving was effected in previous years in the tempory establishment?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No, the permanent travelling allowance is the same; it is fixed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : There must be something wrong somewhere, and the sooner he accepts the cut the better.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If we accept the cut, we will not be able to pay the staff the permanent travelling allowance.

PRESIDENT : You must be able to explain the difference in the figures; otherwise you must be prepared to reduce.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This is the total amount that we want in order to pay the permanent travelling allowance. Then how are we to reduce it? I will go into the figures and see whether Mr. Kochukunju Pillai's figures are correct.

PRESIDENT: You want this motion to stand over?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): For the present, I will accept a cut, if he wants it. But I know, as a matter of fact, that the whole allotment proposed is necessary. I am responsible for the figures of this year; I am not responsible for those of the previous years. If Mr. Kochukunju Pillai wants a cut, I will accept it.

PRESIDENT : Of course he wants it, that is why he has moved the motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : What I think is that there may be some mistake in the figures for the previous years that he gave.

PRESIDENT : You may accept a smaller cut. I will suggest Rs. 1,800. Mr. Kochukunju Pillai, do you accept it?

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Yes, I will accept Rs. 1,800 and I would amend my motion accordingly.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): For the present, I will accept it. I shall verify the figures.

PRESIDENT: If you find that your figures are correct, you will have to come to the House for a supplementary grant.

The question that Rs. 1,800 be reduced from the allotment of Rs. 15,800 for travelling allowance to executive and protective staff was accepted by the House.

Motions 111 to 113.

The following motions were not moved —

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

111. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,800 for travelling allowance of executive and protective staff by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

112. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for travelling allowance of other establishment by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

113. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for fees to vakils.

Motion 114.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

114. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,14,156 for Forest establishment by Rs. 100.

ഈ മോഷണിൽ എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി പറയാനുള്ളത് ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന കാണിക്കാരുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്.

ഇംഗ്ലീഷുവർഷം ഫൻ ഫ ഡിസംബർ ഫർ-ൽ- ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള രാംസിൽ ൻ-ാം വകുപ്പിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"All produce of the land cultivated by hillmen in accordance with the foregoing Rules shall be the property of the hillmen and may be disposed of as they think fit, except food grains and tobacco which shall not be sold or taken out of the Government Forest or Reserve, without the written permission of the Divisional Forest Officer."

എന്നാൽ ഫനാം വകുപ്പിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"The hillmen shall deal only with licensed traders and at their own settlements."

കാണിക്കാരുടെ പ്രയത്നഫലങ്ങളെ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തവകയായും അവർക്കു ബോധിച്ചപോലെയും വിനിയോഗിക്കാവുന്നതായി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൻ-ാം വകുപ്പിനെ ഫനാം വകുപ്പുകൊണ്ട് അസ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. പരസ്പരവിരുദ്ധമായുള്ള ഈ വകുപ്പുകൾ കാണി

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ക്കാർക്ക് വലുതായ ദോഷത്തെ ചെയ്യുവരുന്നു. അവർ വേലചെയ്യുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ വനംവകുപ്പിലെ ലൈസൻസികൾക്കല്ലാതെ കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു നിർബന്ധിക്കയും അതുപോലെ അവരോട് സാമാനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ ഏർപ്പാടനുസരിച്ചു കാണിക്കാരുടെ സാമാനങ്ങൾക്കു നാലിലൊരുഭാഗം വിലകിട്ടാതെ അവർ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നു.

ഇതോടുകൂടി കാണിക്കാരുടെ പ്രധാനഫലങ്ങളെ അവർക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ അനുഭവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. അതിനു കാരണഭൂതന്മാർ ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഗാർഡന്മാരാണ്. കാണിക്കാർ വേലചെയ്യുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങളെ അവർക്കു തോന്നിയ മാതിരി ബലേന കൈവശപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അതിലേക്ക് അവരെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കയും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നു.

കാണിക്കാരെപ്പറ്റി മറെറാരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു വനം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കീഴ്സിൽബന്ധികൾ അവരെ ദേഹോപദ്രവം ഏല്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. ഫ ർ-ാം വകുപ്പാണ് അതിലേക്കു സഹായിക്കുന്നത്. അതിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:—

"The hillmen shall work for the Forest Department, whenever called upon to do so, at prescribed rates of wages, such rates being fixed by the Divisional Forest Officer with the previous sanction of the Conservator, for three years at a time, calculated with reference to the wages paid during the preceding three years and the current market rates."

ഈ വകുപ്പു വായിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് അതിൽ വലുതായ ന്യായരഹിതതയുണ്ടെന്നോ, കാണിക്കാർക്കു വലുതായ സംകടത്തിന് അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നോ തോന്നുന്നതല്ല. നിയമത്തെ നടത്തുന്നതിൽ ഇവിടെ മറെറ സംഗതികളിൽ സാധാരണ കണ്ടുവരാറുള്ള ഔചിത്യക്കുറവ് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു. തേക്കുകൃഷി, തേക്കുവിത്തു മുതലായ വിത്തുകൾ ശേഖരിക്കുക, ബൌണ്ടറിവെട്ടുക, മുതലായ ജോലികൾ ഫാറസ്റ്റുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കാണിക്കാരെക്കൊണ്ടാണ് ചെയ്യിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. കാണിക്കാരുടെ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾക്കായി കൃഷിയിറക്കുന്ന കാലങ്ങളിലാണ് ഫാറസ്റ്റ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുവക ജോലികളും അവർ ചെയ്യാൻ നിർബന്ധിതരായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആ കാലങ്ങളിൽ അവരിൽ സ്ത്രീപുരുഷന്മാർ ഉൾപ്പെടെ ആബാലവൃദ്ധം ജോലിക്കു വരണമെന്നു നിർബന്ധിക്കയും, അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തജോലികൾ ചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. ഇതിനാൽ അവർ വലുതായ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടു കഷ്ടപ്പെടാൻ ഇടയായിത്തീരുന്നു. തേക്കുകൃഷിക്കായി കാണിക്കാരെക്കൊണ്ടു വേലചെയ്യിക്കു

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

മ്പോൾ കാലത്തും വൈകുന്നേരവും അവരിൽ ഓരോരുത്തക്കും ആഹാരത്തിലേക്ക് അരി കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതല്ലാതെ അവക്കു ന്യായമായ ക്രൂലികം കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവ്. ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും അവക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ക്രൂലികം വളരെ കുറവാണ്. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം തേൻ കൃഷിയിൽ വലുതായ ചിലവുകൾ വരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി അവരുടെ ക്രൂലി കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അങ്ങിനെ കുറവായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ക്രൂലികംപോലും കാണിക്കാർക്കു കിട്ടാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇതിലേക്കു പ്രധാനകുറക്കാർ ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഗാർഡന്മാർതന്നെയാണ്. ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത വിധം സുഖക്കേടായികിടക്കുന്ന സ്ത്രീപുരുഷന്മാർ ജോലിക്കു വന്നുചേരാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അവരെ ഗാർഡന്മാർ നീചമായവിധം ഭേഹോപദ്രവങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുവരുന്നു.

ഈ സംഗതികളെ പുറത്തു പറയാൻ അവർ വളരെ ഭയപ്പെടുന്നു. ഈ വിവരങ്ങളെല്ലാം അവരിൽനിന്നും ഞാൻ നേരിട്ട് അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അവർ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഈ വിവരങ്ങൾ അവർ പറഞ്ഞതായി ഗാർഡന്മാരെ അറിപ്പിക്കരുതെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടിയായിരുന്നു. കാണിക്കാർക്കു കൺസർവേറേറ്റർ, ഡിവിഷൻ ആഫീസറന്മാരേയൊ, റേഞ്ചറന്മാരേയൊ ഭയമില്ല. ഗാർഡന്മാരെ അവർ അതിഭയങ്കരമായി ഭയപ്പെടുന്നു. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ഗാർഡന്മാർ കാണിക്കാരെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുവരുന്നതിന്റെ പരിമാണം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സ്ഥിതികളെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി അവക്കു രക്ഷയുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടകാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. പതിതസമുദായങ്ങളെ ഉയർത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിന് എല്ലാവരും ശ്രമിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ ഈ കാലത്തു കാണിക്കാരെ മനുഷ്യരായി ഗണിക്കണമെന്നും അവരോടു മനുഷ്യസഹഭാവത്തോടുകൂടി പെരുമാറണമെന്നും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർണ്മെന്റു നിർബന്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളു.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I second the motion. I think the hillmen and the hillwomen of Travancore are greatly indebted to Mr. Kumara Pillai for having brought before this House their cause. I have some experience of them myself. They are simple people, innocent, very timid and very much afraid of Government officers. Whatever Government officers do is law to them. I remember that, as an Excise Officer, I went into the interior of the forests. The forest subordinates had issued a mandate to the hillmen to collect honey from the surrounding

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places, and a big quantity was collected. I went to the scene, saw the quantity and restored it to the poor fellows. The alleged vagaries of the forest guards and others are, I think, true, from my own experience. I would call the attention of the Government and of Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai to put down these vagaries.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, Mr. Kumara Pillai has stood up for a righteous cause and I can very well understand his moral indignation when he told us that the forest subordinates are harassing and plundering the hillmen. If specific facts are placed before the Government, they will have to institute a proper enquiry at once, because justice which is being given to all communities cannot be denied to the hillmen.

But Mr. Kumara Pillai has raised certain points which I for one am unable to accept. For example, if the working of the rules which have been passed by the Government and which he concedes to be salubrious—if the working of the rules is not properly done, owing to the wickedness or the cupidity of subordinate officers, that is a different matter. That is sufficient reason for instituting an enquiry into the conduct of the Forest officers. Now, I certainly appreciate the sentiment that hillmen should be treated as human beings. I do not think, Sir, there is any absolute standard with regard to the minimum comfort of a human being. We who live in the plains are in certain matters very much worse than the hillmen. The hillmen can enjoy the splendours of isolated forest life (*Laughter*); we have to live in cities which are congested; we have not got good drinking water, we have not got good air and we cannot feast our eyes on the glory of the mountains. It is for the hillmen to consider what is the amount of money that they could get for their products. Many hillmen may consider trinkets more valuable than money; some may value tobacco more, perhaps, than half a sack of rice. The amount of money cannot be the same because the purchasing power varies in different places. For example, with the money one has to pay for a bunch of plantains here, one can buy a better bunch in the hills. Therefore, the argument that the remuneration to be paid by the Forest Department should be the same as that given for similar work in cities and towns—that argument cannot carry conviction to me. I do not mean to say that these people are paid as well as they ought to be. But you cannot forget this main consideration that they are given some kind of paternal treatment by the Government. The ordinary man, if he ventures to squat in the forests, will not be allowed to do so. These hillmen are there by the leave and license of the Government. They are required for certain purposes, because they alone can do that work. And so long as there is no articulate complaint from them that they want more money, I do not think we shall be justified in taking up the question, because, if we pay them the remuneration given to other people, another member of the House may bring in a proposal that, once equality of wages is established as a ruling principle, the hillmen may not be allowed to live in hill-tracts. I am basing my conclusions on the data furnished by Mr. Kumara Pilla.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

If Mr. Kumara Pillai says that the rules are wrong and require rectification, I am certainly at one with him. But if the rules are satisfactory I do not think that we shall be justified in going into the philosophy of the question and considering the difficulty of the people and the economic aspects of the remuneration that is to be given to these hillmen. All the same, the Forest officers should be ordered not to interfere with the rights which the Government have guaranteed to those people. It is certainly painful that, when a hillman plants a plantain tree and a good bunch is forthcoming, the guard goes and says: "This is for *Yajamanan*, this is for *Swami* and this is for *Sahib*." That might exist at all times. But that is a fact which is disclosed not merely in the history of the Forest Department, but in the history of other departments as well. The forest subordinate molesting the hillman is not different from a policeman molesting a man in the plains. I am not speaking of isolated mischief; but I am speaking on the motion so that the Government may take some steps to prevent the fleecing of people by officers who are clothed with brief authority by the Government, which authority they use to the detriment of the poor population.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I must also tell the House what I knew of the *kanis* when I had occasion to inspect Madatturai in connection with a forest committee. When we were there, we paid visits to all their abodes. The allegation made by Mr. Kumara Pillai that the forest subordinates have been taking away the lion's share of the produce of the work of these *kanis* is perfectly true. I know that the information is quite reliable. I further found that the paddy fields that were under cultivation were being handed over for cultivation to other men living adjacent to the forests. I made an enquiry into the causes of such a state of affairs. I was told that these people under instruction from forest authorities were obliged to do so. Anyhow the profit that could have been made out of these paddy lands is not going to these *kanis*. From this state of affairs under which these *kanis* live, it is evident that the guards and other men to whom the interests of these *kanis* are entrusted do not bestow that attention on their well-being which is intended by the Government and by the Department. One other point also I wish to mention. When we went to one or two huts of these *kanis*, we found that all the people there suffering from syphylis or some bad disease of that sort. Of course Mr. Raman Pillai, the Assistant Conservator, looked into the matter and wrote to obtain the aid of a medical officer. On further enquiry, I found that a medical officer went to the place and treated them. I came across many other pitiable circumstances about these *kanis*. In fact they are not cultivating all the lands that they were cultivating formerly, solely for the reason that they do not get the fruit of what they cultivate.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Kochukunju Pillai whether these hillmen are not nomadic?

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MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Yes; they are, to some extent.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Kumara Pillai and the other gentlemen for the new information they have given me. I often come in contact with these hillmen and I have several times asked them if they had any complaints.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai whether he has questioned the hillmen in the absence of his subordinates?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Personally I may say that nobody is more interested in them than I am. But on account of some fear of the Conservator of Forests, perhaps they might not have said all that they would have said to other persons.

The information the members have furnished is quite new to me. The rules are framed for the benefit of the hillmen. There is nothing to prevent them from taking the produce and selling it in the market.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): The rule is to the effect that the hillmen shall deal only with licensed traders and at their own settlements.

PRESIDENT: It does not clash with what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai says. The rule only says that these people shall take their produce and sell them at the market.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Our idea is that all men should not be allowed to enter into the forests and to have trade relationship with the hillmen.

PRESIDENT: I think that those rules require clearing up.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇപ്പോൾ ലൈസൻസുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാർ വേറെയാരും അവിടെ പോയി സാമാനം വാങ്ങാൻ സമ്മതിക്കയില്ല. ഈ റൂൾസ് ഇങ്ങനെ ഉള്ളതു കൊണ്ട് അവർ മുഖേന അല്ലാതെ വില്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു വിരോധിക്കുന്നു. അവരുടെ സാമാനങ്ങൾ ലൈസൻസുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളൂ എന്നവരുന്നതിനാൽ ന്യായമായ വില കിട്ടിവരുന്നില്ല. കച്ചവടക്കാർക്ക് ഇഷ്ടമുള്ളതു കൊടുത്താൽ മതി എന്നനില ആയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That point will be enquired into. If it is found that the licenced traders take advantage of the ignorance of the hillmen, we will remedy their grievance.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. Kumara Pillai refers to is the apparent inconsistency of the rules.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That will be enquired into.

There is a rate of wages prescribed for hillmen's labour. When the hillmen are taken to other places away from their settlements they

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

come almost with empty hands; they have to be fed, and they have to be provided with other things ; some of them consume opium and they have to be provided with that. The rate allowed is six annas ; and if after meeting these expenses there is not much left to be given to them, probably the Department is not to blame. Mr. Kumara Pillai might say that there is pilfering. I am not able to say anything definitely in regard to that; but the balance cannot surely be much.

In regard to the treatment of these people, Mr. Kochukunju Pillai was saying that the paddy lands intended for them were being cultivated by others. That is also a new information. When the Swampy Areas Committee recommended that certain areas should be disafforested, I wrote to the Government that these areas should be set apart exclusively for hillmen and the Government accepted my recommendation and have set apart about half a dozen areas solely for their benefit.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know whether he recommended lands other than those required by the *kanis* being set apart ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : We have reserved some lands exclusively for the use of the *kanis*, and we have been doing everything in our power to help them. The cases of syphilitic disease which Mr. Kochukunju Pillai referred to were cases of yaws. We addressed Government about this and the Darbar Physician was kind enough to depute a medical officer. Some of the hillmen have improved under the treatment, and as the Special Officer said that no more treatment was necessary, he was sent back.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I ask if Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai is aware that the medical officer at Nedumangad has been injecting a medicine for yaws on *kani* patients?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I do not know. I do not profess to be a doctor.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I know he is not a doctor. I saw this in several cases at the Nedumangad hospital. May I know whether Mr. Hilkiah has been injecting a medicine for yaws.

PRESIDENT : The orders of the Government were that all those who required treatment after the special officer was withdrawn should go to the Government hospitals. Perhaps under those orders the Nedumangad medical officer is injecting some medicine.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : On our recommendation several schools have been opened in the forest for hillmen and recently permission was granted to some of the missionaries living at Kulasekharam to open another school for the hillmen and to do useful work among them. When the *kanies* expressed a desire to go and settle permanently outside the forest, I made a recommendation that

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they might be permitted to do so, and Government sanctioned the proposal and they are now treated as a depressed class and given lands free. From these, it will be seen that, so far as we are concerned, we are doing everything possible to alleviate their conditions. If there is a hitch in the rules and if the rules are being badly followed, the matter will be looked into. I am thankful to Mr. Kumara Pillai for the information which he has given me and I shall take the earliest opportunity to enquire into the matter.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): എനിക്ക കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നംതന്നെ പറയാനില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ ധനുക്കോടിപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു പോലെ നടത്തണമെന്ന മാത്രമേയുള്ളു. അദ്ദേഹം ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കയും ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള കഷ്ടതകളിൽ നിന്നും അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യാമെന്ന വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള തുപോലെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്ന് ഒന്നുകൂടി അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Then, Mr. Kumara Pillai, you withdraw your motion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Yes, Sir; I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 115 to 119.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

115. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,14,156 for Forest Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

116. To reduce the allotment of Rs 7,700 for Forest School for Guards by Rs. 2,000.

PRESIDENT: There are three motions relating to one matter. I find motions Nos. 118 and 119. which are identical, are for the entire omission of the allotment, while Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's motion is for the reduction of the allotment. Now I will ask Mr. Madhava Variar to move his motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not move.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

117. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,100 under Forest Settlement Officer by Rs. 500.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

118. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Forest Settlement Officer.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

119. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Forest Settlement Officer.

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

Motion 120.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I move the following :—

120. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

The object of this motion is to discuss the general policy of this Department. The first point which I have to urge upon the attention of the Government is the general cry that Travancore timber is not available to the natives of the soil as cheaply as it is available to foreign contractors. The Conservator of Forests excuses himself by saying that it is not his fault. Many Travancoreans may not require a large quantity of timber. It will not be always possible for each individual to negotiate with the Conservator of Forests for the reduction of the tariff rate. It is the duty of the Conservator of Forests to see that timber is sold to the people as cheaply as it is sold to contractors.

One great difficulty which the people experience is with regard to the distance of the timber depôts from up-country places. A man who lives in the up-country will have to go to a depôt in the coastal regions for timber. In 1098, during the budget discussion, Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman and Father Vettikappalli pointed out that there were no depôts in the up-country. The reason why smuggling is carried on on a large scale in the forests is the absence of facilities for the people of the up-country to procure timber from the neighbouring places. If the Conservator will see that a small quantity of timber is always stocked in the Range Offices under the control of the Ranger and the Forester and if the sale is fixed at stated hours every week, the up-country people will be considerably benefited and there will be a consequential reduction of smuggling. The system will also help to reduce the cost of removal. Suppose royal trees are cut from Kottarakara and removed to Quilon. The purchasers from Kottarakara will have to go to Quilon and take timber from there back to Kottarakara. The Government and the purchaser in this case can avoid the expenditure of removal if the Ranger in Kottarakara stocks a quantity of royal trees under his control.

We see no improvement in the administration of forests. The sale of timber is going down steadily. The Conservator always blames the market. But the private contractors and estate owners have no complaints against the market. Mr. Mackie was telling us that the demand for timber is unfailing. It is the policy of the Department alone which is responsible for the existence of surplus stocks in the depôts. There is something radically wrong in the disposal of timber and in the system of sale. I understand that the Department was not able to supply suitable sizes of timber to the purchasers from outside who were obliged to pay higher prices to private contractors. Nobody took care to ascertain the true requirements of the big purchasers and to supply timber

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of suitable sizes. The timber in the depôts has deteriorated. The Department will have to be more vigilant in the disposal of timber, in the conducting of sales and auctions, and in the ascertainment of the requirements of purchasers.

When Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai urged in 1098 that the Department should have a saw-mill of its own, the Conservator of Forests said that it would be a failure and suggested that some private firms should do the thing. If, as the Conservator said, the saw-mill would be a failure, would any private firm undertake to do that business? When this question was considered by the Madras Government, they were definitely of opinion that neither private firms can be expected nor found willing to invest large sums of money in tramways, saw-mills, machinery and roads, together with undertaking the responsibility for and cost of regenerating the areas of forest exploited. It is essentially a matter for the State in this country as in others. The Burma Government also propose to erect saw-mills of their own, in order to secure valuable markets for their forest wealth.

It is not clear to me what the Forest Utilisation Officer is doing in Travancore. Whatever he may be doing, his labours have not increased the income of the Department. It is alleged that the Utilisation Officer is investigating the commercial potentialities of Travancore forests. I request the Conservator of Forests to tell the House what the Utilisation Officer has done in this direction. The paper pulp industry was taken up in earnest by the Utilisation Officer but nothing has come out of his investigations. Owing to the enterprise of two match factories established in Travancore, a portion of the *eeta* and soft-wood is being utilised by them. The Conservator of Forests has not addressed himself to the task of utilising the forest resources of the State. I do not know whether the Department has realised the immense potentialities of our forests. I ask the Conservator of Forests whether experiments cannot be made in box-making. I think that there is a glorious future for plywood boxes. The possibilities of wood distillation are not properly investigated by the Department. The Conservator does not seem to be alive to the necessity for investigating and exploiting the scientific and commercial possibilities of forest products. The income from minor produce is not encouraging. In some of the Indian Provinces, the Forest Department is trying to solve the numerous problems connected with seasoning and mechanical extraction of timber as it is developed in America and other countries. It will be interesting to know whether the Department has interested itself in the exploitation of lac from which forest administrations in some of the Indian Provinces are realising a large income every year.

The Conservator of Forests once promised this House that the question of appointing a trade agent would engage the attention of the Government. I would like to know whether the Government have advanced beyond the stage of promise in this matter.

Before I conclude, I have to speak a word with regard to the disposal of *kudivila* applications. The Department is not at all prompt in

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[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

the payment of *kudivila*. The investigations are tardily conducted, so much so that many persons have issued notices to the Government. The Conservator says that he has become very cautious after the defalcation case at Kottayam. Nobody blames him for his caution. But the people have cause to complain that the Department is criminally negligent in the disposal of applications for the payment of *kudivila*.

I have to advert to one or two other points with regard to the general policy of the Department. It has been urged in this Council that royalty in trees should be entirely abolished. The Government undertook to consider the question along with the Free Pass Rules. The rules with regard to royal trees are giving a lot of trouble to the Department and to the public. The officers of the Forest Department, instead of conserving and developing the forests, are staying in the plains and are looking after royal trees in private compounds, so much so, that that the forests are not properly inspected and cared for. If the attention of the Department is wholly focussed on the conservation and regeneration of forests and if the officers are asked to live in forest regions, much expenditure can be legitimately avoided.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. In doing so, I beg to bring to the notice of this House two other complaints against the Forest Department. The first one is the great reluctance the Department shows in releasing from the reserve forests plots suitable for paddy cultivation. It is admitted that we should try to improve our paddy cultivation so that the local supply of paddy may be equal to the local demand. It is true that Government have been appointing committees to find out and report about the swampy areas in the reserves suitable for paddy cultivation. But the complaint I speak of is not so much about the swampy areas as that question has been kindly taken up by the Government and is under consideration. The complaint I speak of is about other areas which are not swampy where what is called *malankrishi* could be easily done, say once in six or seven years. There was a time when the taluks of Kunnatnad and Todupuzha were supplying sufficient paddy not only for the consumption of those taluks but also for the consumption of the neighbouring taluks. But that was when *malankrishi* was freely allowed in the forests to the great advantage of the Government as well as of the people. The Forest Department, for instance, could very easily allow with good profit to Government such reserves on *kuttagapattam* or some other system as the Karakat reserve and the Pandupara Pilapalli for paddy cultivation. But the Forest Department seems to be against releasing these plots.

The second complaint I beg to speak of is about the exorbitant seigniorage levied on the *eeta* collected from the Government forests. The Government are very anxious to improve all kinds of cottage industries and the high rate of seigniorage now levied on *eeta* is in direct

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opposition to this paternal policy of the Government. *Eeta* industry is a thriving cottage industry in Kunnatnad and in some parts of Muvattupuzha and Parur. Hundreds of poor people live on that industry. I know the Director of Industries has been collecting statistics about industries and he may be able to give us exact figures. Anyhow, it is an important industry in North Travancore, and I do not think it is wise policy to try to get out of this industry of the poor as much as possible and thereby choke it. Before 1075 there was no seigniorage on *eeta*. After 1075, a small sum of eight annas per thousand was charged. Slowly one Conservator after another began to enhance the rate of seigniorage and it is now as high as Rs. 2½ per thousand! The poor people have also to pay two rupees for one hundred reeds required for tying the *eetas* into bundles before they are brought down. So the poor man has to pay Rs. 4½ for one thousand *eetas* before they are brought down from the hills. Anyone who knows something of the hard labour necessary for collecting *eetas* and of the dangerous nature of the area wherefrom they are collected, will certainly agree that the present rate is really exorbitant. A further hardship is caused by the time-limit of the pass. According to the present rule, the pass has to be renewed after every fifteen days on fresh payment of fees. These circumstances, Sir, make the industry of these poor people very costly and it is high time that the department suggests to Government a substantial reduction in the seigniorage for *eeta*. In this connection, I must thank the Government on behalf of the *eeta* industry, for the orders that the Government have issued, as a flood relief measure, for giving free passes for *eeta* for some time.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some of the points urged by Mr. Madhava Variar have already been dealt with by me in this House. He has been advocating the opening of sale depôts in out of the way places, near Range Offices, etc. As a result of representations made in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly several years before, we had a number of minor depôts in the Range offices and also in important places in the interior. The result of it was that in no place was any sale effected. I know as a matter of fact that in the Kotamangalam Range Office there were about half a dozen logs for several years lying unsold, and I had to auction them in the end. Though a demand is made for opening fresh depôts in the interior, nobody cares to buy timber from such depôts once they are opened.

PRESIDENT: I think Mr. Madhava Variar wants to open minor depôts for the sale of royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No. I think he means junglewood also.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I speak only in regard to royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As regards royal trees, the owners have a right to take the trees after establishing their claim for *kudivila* and then pay us half the tariff rate

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

for the timber that they take. That is the rule which we follow at present.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the Department issues any notice to the owners of the lands ?

PRESIDENT: I am not able to hear you.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether the Department issues notice to the owners of the lands before they cut the timber.

PRESIDENT: They cannot cut the timber without the knowledge of the owners.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I understand the Forest authorities are not giving notice. The staff of the Forest Department go and cut down and remove the timber without giving any information to the owners According to the rules they have to prepare a *mahazar*.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir, a joint *mahazar* has to be prepared.

PRESIDENT: Mr. M. N. Pillai, you are not making a specific complaint. If you point out specific cases of breach of rules, then Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will take the necessary action.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I know from my own personal experience that no notices are issued.

PRESIDENT: You will kindly communicate those cases to the Conservator of Forests and he will enquire about them.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the opening of minor depôts in out of the way places, our experience is that the scheme is a failure. There are greater facilities for private gentlemen for obtaining timber in these out of the way places.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): തക്കല യുള്ള ഡിപ്പോ നിറുത്തിയതു ചിലവില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണോ? അതിൽ ലാഭം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും തടി ചിലവാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും ആണോ നിറുത്താൻ ഇടയായത്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Due to want of sale. From the letter recommending to the Government the abolition of the Thuckalai depôt, which I had occasion to peruse once, I find that a private depôt was opened there with the result that the sale in the Government depôt suffered.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിച്ചാൽ വില്പന കുറവായിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുമോ ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I base my information only on the letter, which I had occasion to peruse, recommending the abolition of the Thuckalai depôt.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരാളിനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനല്ലയോ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവുള്ള ഡിപ്പോവിനെ അവിടെ നിന്നും മാറിയത്? അതാണ് പരമാർത്ഥം.

PRESIDENT: When was the depôt abolished?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): About 1096 or so. For the information of Mr. Kumara Pillai, I may tell him that I have recommended the opening of a depôt at Thuckalai and the matter is pending with the Government.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ ഡിപ്പോവിനെപ്പോലെ വിറകും മുളയും വേറെ എങ്ങും വിലവില്ല. അതുവളരെ ചിലവായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പോവിനെ ഒരാളിനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടിയല്ലയോ സർക്കാർ നിർത്തേണ്ടതായി വന്നത്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Then Mr. Madhava Variar referred to another point, namely, the opening of saw-mills by the Department. Mr. Madhava Variar comes from Quilon and he is in a position to know more or less the condition of saw-mills in Quilon. Unfortunately, Mr. Mackie is not present to-day. If he were here, we could have had his testimony in the matter. We had the instance of the Russelkonda Saw-mills; that ought to be an eye-opener to all of us. It lost nearly Rs. 50,000 last year. Therefore, the question of opening a departmental saw-mill would not be feasible, especially when we have not much of permanent business in timber. But if any private gentleman would only come forward and open a saw-mill, we would give him all facilities. Personally, I would not recommend the opening of a saw-mill at the cost of Government.

PRESIDENT: Is it because you have plenty of people here to do hand-sawing and because hand-sawing is cheaper than mill-sawing?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir, hand-sawing is cheap here.

Then Mr. Madhava Variar referred to paper pulp and said that nothing was known about the work of the Forest Utilisation Officer. Unfortunately that information has not been published and that has been the cause for so much of misunderstanding on that subject. The Forest Utilisation Officer has investigated the matter and submitted a report to Government. The report was placed before the Economic Development Board for consideration; and after discussion there, it was decided that the financial calculations on which the opening of the paper mill has been based were not accurate; at any rate the Economic Development Board was not in a position to guarantee the accuracy of the figures. Therefore it was decided that nothing need be done before securing all the necessary information accurately. About that time, Mr. Cox of the Malabar Match Factory came forward and agreed to take *eeta* for the manufacture of matches. The initial expenditure required for paper pulp was very high—about Rs. 20 lakhs as recommended

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[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

in the report, and therefore that was considered to be a risky venture. So, the Economic Development Board recommended the granting of concessions to Mr. Cox, with the result that, in the place of a paper mill, we have a match factory being established in North Travancore.

Mr. Madhava Variar also referred to box-making as a suitable industry. The only boxes that we can make here are packing cases for the despatch of tea and rubber. And at present we get ply chests from outside and the question is whether it would be paying for us to make such boxes here. Mr. Mackie would be in a position to let us know exactly how they are carrying on their industry. Unfortunately, on account of the heavy cost of the machinery, even the possibility of making an experiment is precluded. The cost of machinery required for the experiment is about Rs. 2 lakhs. At the present day, when the foreign chest has established itself here, it will not be possible for us to successfully compete with it.

With regard to the lac industry also, it has been said that we are not doing anything. Lac is a secretion from certain insects which do not thrive in Travancore on account of very heavy rainfall. Even in Mysore lac insects are not thriving properly and, if I am permitted to say so, the result of the experiment made there was very disappointing. They had about 80 lbs. of brood lac in the beginning and in the end they got only 40 lbs.

PRESIDENT: Did you make an investigation and then find out that it was not possible here?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): On account of the heavy rainfall, lac industry cannot thrive here.

PRESIDENT: An investigation has been made here and the result of it has also been published, I think.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the appointment of a trade agent, the matter is still under correspondence and we have not yet come to a definite decision.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Was there not a trade agent some years ago at Trichinopoly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was a trade agent and the experiment ended in failure. The agent wanted us to collect and stock timber. We were expecting orders from him. But the orders never came. Nothing was done practically. He was also not kept there for a long time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was he a Travancorean?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He was not.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is it not due to the wrong choice of the trade agent that the scheme proved to be a failure before?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Dr. Kunjan Pillai was asked to enquire and report on the matter. He says that it would be very advantageous if a trade agent is appointed in London.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai is in possession of the House.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The matter is still under correspondence and we have not yet come to any definite decision with regard to that.

Mr. Madhava Variar again referred to the delay in the payment of *kudivila*. I do admit, Sir, that we are having enough of complaints in the matter. Unfortunately, in some cases the accounts are so confusing that the old cases could not be easily disposed of. Some of the claims put forward by some people are also very flimsy and not based on proper records.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know why the Department did not keep accounts properly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is due to the method of doing it and I am not responsible for that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not necessary that you should make a joint *mahazar* before the timber is removed?

PRESIDENT: Please address the question to me.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is absolutely no difficulty in cases where we prepare *mahazars* and where there are correct receipts. The difficulty is in cases where there are no correct records.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What will be the amount due in the shape of *kudivila* approximately, I mean the amount due to the land-owners?

PRESIDENT: You mean the total amount of the claim?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Roughly about Rs. 2 lakhs.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there instances of claims pending for ten or twelve years?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There may be such cases. After 1086 we have not been paying regularly.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there cases in which the parties have issued notices?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, there are. The difficulty is that the accounts are not clear and we cannot make head or tail out of the old records available. It involves elaborate labour on the part of the departmental staff. Unless we have an increase of staff and unless the people are also prepared in turn to supply us with the necessary information promptly, it is not possible for us to make headway in the matter. There are cases in which the claims

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in the report, and therefore that was considered to be a risky venture. So, the Economic Development Board recommended the granting of concessions to Mr. Cox, with the result that, in the place of a paper mill, we have a match factory being established in North Travancore.

Mr. Madhava Variar also referred to box-making as a suitable industry. The only boxes that we can make here are packing cases for the despatch of tea and rubber. And at present we get ply chests from outside and the question is whether it would be paying for us to make such boxes here. Mr. Mackie would be in a position to let us know exactly how they are carrying on their industry. Unfortunately, on account of the heavy cost of the machinery, even the possibility of making an experiment is precluded. The cost of machinery required for the experiment is about Rs. 2 lakhs. At the present day, when the foreign chest has established itself here, it will not be possible for us to successfully compete with it.

With regard to the lac industry also, it has been said that we are not doing anything. Lac is a secretion from certain insects which do not thrive in Travancore on account of very heavy rainfall. Even in Mysore lac insects are not thriving properly and, if I am permitted to say so, the result of the experiment made there was very disappointing. They had about 80 lbs. of brood lac in the beginning and in the end they got only 40 lbs.

PRESIDENT: Did you make an investigation and then find out that it was not possible here?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): On account of the heavy rainfall, lac industry cannot thrive here.

PRESIDENT: An investigation has been made here and the result of it has also been published, I think.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the appointment of a trade agent, the matter is still under correspondence and we have not yet come to a definite decision.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Was there not a trade agent some years ago at Trichinopoly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was a trade agent and the experiment ended in failure. The agent wanted us to collect and stock timber. We were expecting orders from him. But the orders never came. Nothing was done practically. He was also not kept there for a long time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was he a Travancorean?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He was not.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is it not due to the wrong choice of the trade agent that the scheme proved to be a failure before?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Dr. Kunjan Pillai was asked to enquire and report on the matter. He says that it would be very advantageous if a trade agent is appointed in London.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai is in possession of the House.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The matter is still under correspondence and we have not yet come to any definite decision with regard to that.

Mr. Madhava Variar again referred to the delay in the payment of *kudivila*. I do admit, Sir, that we are having enough of complaints in the matter. Unfortunately, in some cases the accounts are so confusing that the old cases could not be easily disposed of. Some of the claims put forward by some people are also very flimsy and not based on proper records.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know why the Department did not keep accounts properly?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is due to the method of doing it and I am not responsible for that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not necessary that you should make a joint *mahazar* before the timber is removed?

PRESIDENT: Please address the question to me.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is absolutely no difficulty in cases where we prepare *mahazars* and where there are correct receipts. The difficulty is in cases where there are no correct records.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What will be the amount due in the shape of *kudivila* approximately, I mean the amount due to the land-owners?

PRESIDENT: You mean the total amount of the claim?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Roughly about Rs. 2 lakhs.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there instances of claims pending for ten or twelve years?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There may be such cases. After 1086 we have not been paying regularly.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there cases in which the parties have issued notices?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, there are. The difficulty is that the accounts are not clear and we cannot make head or tail out of the old records available. It involves elaborate labour on the part of the departmental staff. Unless we have an increase of staff and unless the people are also prepared in turn to supply us with the necessary information promptly, it is not possible for us to make headway in the matter. There are cases in which the claims

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

have been investigated and admitted; but on account of inadequate budget allotments, we have sometimes not been able to satisfy them. For recent fellings we have been promptly paying *kudivila*.

The Rev. Father Vettikkappalli has been advocating *malankrishi* in the forests. In the twentieth century for one to advocate indiscriminate *malankrishi* is certainly surprising. Probably he wants only the disafforestation of the one or two reserves he mentioned, if I mistake him not.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): I want reserves to be set free for cultivation in as many places as possible.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): *Malankrishi* or shifting cultivation is of a pernicious nature. In fact the existence of forests is inconsistent with such cultivation. Probably that is why he wanted only one or two reserves. With regard to the Karakat reserve, it is an area which has been reserved for fuel and fodder to the adjoining villages.

PRESIDENT: He mentioned it only as an instance. Fr. Vettikkappalli wants it to be followed as a general principle.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Then I oppose him. It is absolutely suicidal to allow shifting cultivation inside forest reserves.

With regard to the seigniorage for *eeta*, the existing rate is Rs. 2 per thousand. At present the Malabar match factory pays us roughly at Rs. 6 to Rs. 6½ per thousand. The Rev. Fr. Vettikkappalli says that for collecting one thousand *eetas* one has to pay Rs. 2 for *eetas*, and Rs. 2½ for ratans to tie them into bundles. I may assure him that one does not require Rs. 2½ worth of ratans for tying one thousand *eetas* into a bundle.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VATTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): May I know whether we have to pay for ratan even if we do not use ratan for tying *eeta* into bundles? I think at present people are bound to take ratans and pay for them.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I think the amount of ratan required for tying a thousand *eetas* into bundles would not cost more than eight annas; if the pass-holders would take ropes for the purpose of tying the *eeta*, they need not have to pay for ratan. But, since these people have to walk for more than 20 miles, we cannot reasonably expect them to carry ropes with them for such a long distance. Of course, if they are prepared to carry tying materials with them, they will not be charged for ratan.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not press the motion.

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PRESIDENT : I take it that the House permits Mr. Madhava Variar to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 121.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. M. N. PILLAI,

121. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, are you going to move your motion ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT : We will now adjourn for lunch.

The Council adjourned at 2-35 P. M. and re-assembled at 3·30 P. M.

Motion 122.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Sir, I beg to move the following motion :

122. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the policy of the Department during the last few years, particularly with reference to its declining revenue and the causes that have contributed to this result. Though the conservation of the forests may be more important than the realisation of the revenue, it cannot be denied that revenue is a very important matter of concern with the Department. An examination of the budget for the last two or three years will show that there have been considerable fluctuations in the revenue and expenditure in this Department and that the fall in the budgeted revenue has always been very considerable. There was a fall, for instance, from the budget estimate of Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 11 and odd lakhs in 1098. The difference in the budget and revised estimates for 1099 is also more than Rs. 1 lakh. In 1096 we find in the Administration Report the following comment on a similar situation :—

"It need only be added that the stoppage of coupe sales and the withholding of timber in the depôts awaiting better prices are measures calculated to secure a substantial increase in revenue later, although they are responsible for an immediate apparent decrease in revenue."

Four years have since elapsed, but the situation has been growing from bad to worse. The main reason for the fall in the revenue is attributed to dullness in the timber market. We have been hearing of this dullness year after year, but nothing tangible has been done to improve the sale of timber. The peculiar feature of this sale is that large quantities of timber have been allowed to lie in the depôts unsold for several years, with the result that most of this timber has become unfit for use.

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

The decline in revenue on account of the sale of timber does not seem to us to be attributable solely to the dullness in the timber market. There is reason to believe that Government have to incur serious loss on account of the way in which business is being conducted in this Department. I would place what information I have obtained for examination before the House and I hope the Conservator will give us his own explanation as to the charges that I make, so that the House may judge whether these charges are well-founded or not.

Private negotiation seems to be the favourite method adopted in this Department with regard to the sale of timber. Even in cases where public auction is resorted to, except publishing a notice in the *Gazette*, the ordinary and up-to-date methods of advertisement in other countries are not adopted. There can be no doubt that the marketing portion of the business will suffer on this account. The sale to Messrs. Sabnis and Co. was negotiated by the present Conservator. Great care should have been taken in fixing the terms of a contract involving such a large amount. On the other hand, we find that the Government have now to incur a loss of more than one lakh of rupees mainly on account of the careless manner in which this agreement seems to have been entered into. On behalf of the firm, the agreement was executed by a person who had apparently no authority to execute it so as to bind the firm. Provision should certainly have been made to realise the amount in the event of failure on the part of the firm to perform the contract. This too has not been done in this case. It is not unknown to us that Government have had to pay or been threatened with damages in cases where they have not been able to fulfil the terms of contracts entered into by them. We have now to remain helpless in the case of the Sabnis contract owing to this blunder on the part of the Forest Department. The timber lying in the depôts and now rejected by the company could long ago have been disposed of in small lots at concession rates to the people of this country; but no such attempt, so far as I know, has been made. I saw some of the timber at the Vettikad depôt recently, but the logs did not appear to me to be so bad as they have been represented to be. But time will do its work and this timber will not fetch even fire-wood price after some time.

"Boles" are a most coveted commodity in the timber market. There is a great demand for boles in the adjoining districts of Tinnevelly and other places for house-building. By private negotiation last year, one Kaliappa Nadar, a foreigner, was given the contract to purchase these boles at the rate of as. 64 a bole when the prevailing market rate was somewhere about as. 73 or 74. We find from the Administration Report for 1098 that a quantity of 14,703 boles was extracted in the Shencottah Division and 59,124 boles in the Quilon Division; the extent of the loss could therefore be easily ascertained. Though several persons were prepared to give higher prices for these boles in 1099, the same Kaliappa Nadar succeeded in securing the contract by private negotiation. My information is that some of them had

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afterwards wired to Government tendering payment and praying for the right of purchase at higher rates; but the offers had to be rejected. Kaliappa Nadar appears to have secured favourable concessions too. The right to repurchase the 15 per cent. rejection of the boles at nearly half the price of good boles has also been given to him. It appears also to be one of the terms of the contract that Government are prohibited from selling boles to any one else during the period of the contract till Kumbham 1100. It is impossible to imagine a more ruinous arrangement for Government and their contractors who can only get their money after these boles are taken and paid for by the Nadar. There is yet one other condition in this agreement. One of the terms of the contract is that Government are precluded from selling sawn articles above $6' \times 6'$ except to this Kaliappa Nadar. Unfortunately sleepers will come under this measurement, and if Kaliappa Nadar wants, he may object to the sale of sleepers which bring in large revenue to Government. Kaliappa Nadar may not perhaps insist on this condition in his contract as he may expect to secure further contracts in future. I understand that this agreement having removed the most coveted material from the market, the sales of other articles in the timber market have also been adversely affected. It is not easy to understand why, in respect of a commodity for which there is so much demand and for which people were prepared to pay higher prices, a contract should have been entered into on such terms and conditions. It will be instructive to compare this agreement made by the Conservator with that made with Messrs. Sabnis & Co. The loss to Government on account of this agreement is very serious.

The way in which tenders are dealt with by the Conservator gives room for serious complaints and misgivings and is calculated to entail loss to Government. The ordinary rule is that the lowest tender is to be accepted whenever possible. Several cases have been brought to our notice in which the Conservator has refused to accept the lowest tender and has prevailed upon a higher tenderer to accept the lower tender. This is most disappointing to those who have offered lower tenders. Competition is thereby greatly discouraged and the ultimate loss has to be borne by Government. The Department has to encourage new contractors by exciting competition instead of confining their dealings to old contractors. There are instances in which contracts have been pressed upon those who did not even offer tenders.

There are other irregularities in the sale of timber. The contractors who supply timber to the depôts are allowed either themselves or through their relatives to purchase the timber supplied by them. The contractor gets a portion of the *kolevila* sufficient for his expenses soon after the timber is brought to the depôt, and if for a few rupees more he can get the timber, he can undersell and can make a profit out of the business. The fall in the demand for '*Akil*' in the Northern Division adverted to in the Administration Report is also attributable to the sale of the whole stock to the supplying contractor.

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

The administration of the Department has not shown any signs of improvement for the last few years. Nothing like a systematic policy is being followed in forest administration. The question of exploitation alone ought to be treated as a commercial proposition and some accounts ought to be kept in order to show in the budget what the amount is that you require for the commercial part of the business and what exactly is the profit that you make. The general annual accounts of the Department do not show definitely whether the produce exploited by Government agency has produced a profit or not. During last year's budget discussion, it was pointed out that the net profit realised by the Government on one cubic foot of timber was only 1 anna 2 pies. There was no sufficient explanation for this disappointing result; but the House was informed that these questions were receiving the consideration of the Department.

The question of working plans has not yet received any satisfactory solution at the hands of the Department. From the explanation given by the Conservator last year, it would appear that working plans are mostly useless and are prepared merely to be deviated from. Yet, year after year, the Government have been expressing regret and asking the Department to complete the preparation. There is no settled policy in respect of working plans depending as it does on the Conservator's policy at the time. The difficulty of preparing working plans appears recently to have been solved by the decision to prepare simple schemes according to the requirements in each case. There are, according to the Administration Report, working plans for an area of 1,290 square miles and 533 acres. Elaborate working plans are said to have been prepared for 673 square miles and 350 acres. But, according to the Conservator, those working plans were prepared some years ago when sufficient data were not available, when conditions were different and when the price of timber was low. Those working plans were also prepared without any idea as regards the time that would be taken for the exploitation in each coupe, and deviations had accordingly to be made in such cases from the original plan. It is impossible to get an accurate and clear idea of what is being done by the Department with regard to the preparation of working plans now and what is the exact area of the forests which is worked under sanctioned working plans. We are not also in a position to know whether any data are being collected for the preparation of the schemes. In Mysore, we find that the total area of State forests *worked* under sanctioned working plans in 1923 was 1,551 square miles or 46·1 per cent. of the total area of State forests. It will be instructive to know what the area of the Travancore State forests is that is being worked under sanctioned schemes.

With regard to communications, we find in the Administration Report:—

"On the whole, progress of expenditure on the important item of improvement of communications cannot be said to be satisfactory and the Conservator should see that better results are shown in this direction."

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The revenue derived from minor produce has shown absolutely no signs of improvement. There is no forest industry worth the name. The important source of revenue from grazing is still left unexplored.

With regard to forest inspection, the Government remark in the Administration Report that they "are still in the dark as to the nature and volume of the intensive forest inspection done by the Division officers."

We do not know the nature or extent of the services rendered to the State by the Utilisation Officer appointed in the Department. We have not been able to find any attention being paid to improved methods of exploitation and experiments in regard to various economic products. It remains to be seen whether the officer will be able to justify his existence.

The absence of demarcation and survey maps is a drawback which has not been removed in spite of repeated representations. We find a duty allowance of Rs. 400 to the Superintendent of Survey being provided in this year's budget. I do not know why this provision is made.

The anxiety is to make up the budget revenue towards the end of the year.

All these considerations lead us to conclude that the Department has not been progressing satisfactorily for the last few years. We earnestly hope that the administration will improve in all these respects in future.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have not got much to say as most of these points were dealt with last year during the course of the budget discussion. But there are one or two points which have been brought forward anew. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai says that there was in 1097 a revenue of Rs. 15 lakhs and in 1098 a revenue of only Rs. 11 lakhs and odd. I have already explained to the House how in 1097, on account of the sleeper supply contract which brought us an immediate revenue of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs, the revenue had increased. We had to feel the effect of this later. A large quantity of timber out of which the sleepers were converted was left in the forest. Of these nearly 65,000 cft. were worked down to the depôt, but there was no demand for them. One lakh of rupees was spent on account of working charges alone on this timber and not more than Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 worth could be sold during 1098. It was on account of this that there has been a fall in 1098 and in 1099 also there appeared to be no prospect of disposal of this timber. They were all small materials converted out of sleeper supply remnants and were of different length and size. It was expected at the time the contract was given in 1096 that these timbers could be sold with a small margin of profit. But, unfortunately, the price of timber all over the world fell and there was absolutely no demand for these materials. The working charge was Re. 1 as. 7 and about Rs. 1 lakh had already been spent on that. During the whole of 1099, only about 15,000 cubic feet were disposed of leaving a balance of nearly 50,000 at the end of

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

the year. With this large stock and with also the previous accumulation referred to by some of the members this morning, there was a stock of nearly 70,000 cubic feet at the depôts for which there was no sale. Simultaneously with this, fresh timber was also being got in at the depôts. The purchasers naturally went in for the fresh timber and did not care to go in for the old small materials as they had lost their freshness also by the time. We had already spent over a lakh of rupees on this timber and there was no prospect of selling it. We invited tenders for the wholesale purchase of this timber and there was only one tender received for Re. 1 as. 4. Another offered Re. 1 as. 7, the working charges being paid, but he wanted only a small quantity and that too after selection. We tried negotiations but they also came to nothing. We had supplying contracts by which about 60,000 boles were delivered in the depôts during 1099. By Minam only 20,000 of these boles were disposed of and there still remained 40,000 to be disposed before the next four months.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I cannot hear.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): These boles, Sir, I must inform the House are somewhat peculiar. They are sawn from inferior species of trees which have no demand in our country. They lose their freshness by exposure and go bad very rapidly if exposed to rain. They have therefore to be sold as quickly as possible. 40,000 boles cannot ordinarily be sold from the depôts in the last 4 months of the year, when the rains will have set in. We had also to dispose of the enormous quantity of timber lying in the depôts as a dead stock for the previous 24 months on which we had also locked up over a lakh of rupees. The British merchants are always keen on purchasing the boles but not the *kongu* materials and the only possible chance of finding a sale for the *kongu* materials was to induce the merchants to buy the *kongu* along with the boles. To do this, the merchants will have to invest a large capital, as the value of the purchase will amount to nearly 2½ lakhs. There were only two merchants who had tendered for the wholesale purchase of the *kongu* materials and both of them were financially sound and had had similar contracts with the Department in past years. I asked the Divisional Forest Officer, Shencottah, to negotiate with one of them while I negotiated with the other, the one not knowing the terms of the other. As a result of this, we were able to secure an offer by which the purchaser agreed to buy all the *kongu* materials lying in the depôts for the previous two years at a margin of profit to us, while he also promised to buy all the boles at the average price at which they were sold from the depôts till then. In the beginning of the year when a few boles are brought to the depôts, they are sold at a fancy price. Later on when the depôts get stocked with more timber, the price goes down. The merchants would combine among themselves and dictate their own terms and it becomes a question then how to dispose them. The price offered was sufficiently high and

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there was also the additional advantage of our being able to dispose of *kongu* materials at a profit to Government. The offer was therefore recommended to Government and Government accepted the same. About this time, I also received an offer by telegram from some other merchant offering 4 annas more per bole of certain species but he was prepared to purchase only the boles and not the *kongu* materials, the disposal of which was our difficulty. I hope Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai will now be satisfied.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Are we to understand that the demand for boles is so very limited?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. Ordinarily, it will only be about 40,000 per year and not more. If we put more, the market will not consume and the price will go down and they cannot be sold also sometimes. The wholesale purchaser controls the market and he is in a position to push forward the sale in a way we will not be able to do. One great fact is that, if these boles are not disposed of before the rainy month of Karkatakam, they are almost lost to us. We have incurred heavy loss on this account in previous years. Once they are exposed to sun and rain, we are not likely to get even half the price which they would otherwise fetch.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Is it more advantageous to sell all these materials to one person instead of to different persons?

PRESIDENT: You forget what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai said. He said that it was considered more advantageous that the boles should be bought by one person because thereby we were in a position to dispose of the *kongu* materials also, and that the man who offered the higher rate wanted only the boles. That is what made all the difference. The old *kongu* materials were extra and we could not get a single cash for them, while this man took them also. It is therefore that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai told you that this man's offer was accepted. He also told you that the demand for *kongu* materials is very limited, that all the *kongu* materials are consumed outside Travancore and that one or two big merchants control the market.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I wanted to know whether, if there were other purchasers, it would not be more advantageous.

PRESIDENT: It would certainly be if the offers were for the whole lot.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it a fact that we are not in a position to enforce—

PRESIDENT: I cannot hear you.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it a fact that we are not in a position to enforce our agreement with Sabnis and Co.?

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has not come to that.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to Sabnis and Co., they deposited Rs. 10,000 as advance and agreed to purchase the materials at the rates agreed upon. But later on they found that they had paid a heavy price. They took one or two consignments to Bombay but they could not be sold there. Meanwhile the price of teak timber went down. Burma timber was being sold at Rs. 120 all over the country. So they wanted somehow or other to back out of the contract. We had to dispose of the timber otherwise and recover from them any loss which we might sustain.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. Panjikaran wants to know is whether we can claim the loss from the company.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I believe we can.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was the contract with Government entered into by a person who was authorised by the company to enter into the contract?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai said that Messrs. Sabnis and Co. have entered into an agreement with the Travancore Government. They can only be represented by an individual. In all these matters somebody is authorised by the company.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was the man who entered into the contract an authorised agent of Messrs. Sabnis and Co.?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. The man held a power of attorney.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What was the condition referred to by my friend which necessitated our disposing of the timber in other ways?

PRESIDENT: He has already told you that. They failed to perform the contract and we are disposing of the timber. When we have ascertained the loss, we will proceed against the company.

The time allotted for this Demand is over. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, are you pressing the motion?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 123 and 124.

The following motions lapsed as the time fixed for the Demand had expired.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

123. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

124. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·67 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

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PRESIDENT : I now place for the vote of the House Demand IV—Forest—Rs. 7·67 lakhs *minus* Rs. 1,800.

The grant was made.

DEMAND V—STAMPS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·71 lakh under Demand V—Stamps.

Motion 125.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnatur*) : Sir, I beg to move the following : —

125. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,715 for establishment by (the pay of the Supervisor) Rs. 825.*

The reduction that I propose is the pay of the Supervisor included under this item. I want to know from Mr. George the nature of the work for which the supervision of this particular officer is required.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Sir, to enable the House to understand the nature of the work of this officer, I shall explain the items of work that are being done in the institution. This institution consists of two sections. One is the store section where the papers which are to be converted into stamps are stored. This is in charge of the store-keeper. The other is the manufacturing section, which is not particularly in the charge of anybody and where the manufacturing operations are being carried on. The Superintendent looks after the entire office. The main object of creating this post is to supervise the manufacturing operations. The manufacture of stamps is now done in more than one room. There is no single room in which all of them can be put together. Hence the operations are carried on in more than one room. The necessity for the appointment has been pressed upon the attention of the Government by the late Superintendent of the Stamp Manufactory, Mr. Watts, and also by Mr. Vasudeva Kurup. The latter pointed out that it was not practicable for him as the Superintendent of the institution to have effective supervision over the Manufactory, particularly because he was also in charge of the Mint. He pointed out that, in the absence of effective supervision, a great deal of waste was experienced in the Manufactory. In fact, the wastage amounted to something like five per cent. of the whole. The cost of the paper alone that was so wasted came to about Rs. 7,000 in 1097. He therefore pointed out the necessity for appointing an officer who would be in immediate charge of the manufacturing operations. Then, there is another necessity also which has been brought to the notice of Government. Sometimes, the Superintendent has to be away on short leave, and there is no one to take charge of the institution during such absence. It is not advisable to place the next man, *viz.*, the store-keeper who gets only Rs. 35 to 50, in charge of the institution. It is obvious that the man who is in charge of the printing paper which has to be converted into

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